

Woman's World

Isabel Gordon Curtis, Author of
"The Woman From Wolverton."



Among the story writers of today are a group of women who graduated not from a college, but from newspaper ranks. One of these is Isabel Gordon Curtis. Twenty years ago she was doing the dramatic on a newspaper in Springfield, Mass. Later she took up magazine work, and recently her literary activities have taken book form, the result being a delightful story, "The Woman From Wolverton," which has been pronounced by critics as "typically American." It deals with the social experience of congressional people.

The local color and material for this story were gathered on the spot by Mrs. Curtis, who is the wife of Francis Curtis, director of the Republican literary bureau, and during a long residence at the national capital Mrs. Curtis has had a chance to become intimately acquainted with congressional families.

"That she knows her Washington well may be gleaned from a very characteristic remark made by the heroine of the story, who says: 'If you wish to locate lost relatives or friends you have not heard of for years and incidentally learn something of human nature, become a householder in Washington before inauguration. Any inauguration will do.'"

Mrs. Curtis is a Scotchwoman, having been born and educated in Huntly, a little town in Aberdeenshire made famous by the Scottish romances of George MacDonald.

Positions for the Untrained.

A great problem is that of supplying girls and women of good birth, manners and education with an independent and honorable career. Unfortunately many applicants remain vague and impractical as to the nature of the work required.

Now, the profession of governess and social secretary are posts which can be held only by highly educated, cultured women.

And it is hard to see what hope can be held out by the professional adviser to applicants of whom the following are typical: A girl, pleasing enough in appearance, says she wants work. Asked to be definite, she looks bewildered and then, thinking she has found the solution, replies with enthusiasm, "I am willing to do anything." Further questions elicit that she knows no French, no German, no typewriting or shorthand, nothing of account, does not like cooking or needlework, but can arrange flowers, act in amateur theatricals—in which she has been greatly admired—can play the piano a little and considers herself eminently suitable to travel abroad as companion to a nice girl of her own age, who must be prepared to pay well for the privilege. She goes away quite horrified that there is no immediate demand for such services as she can offer.

An elderly applicant for a similar post described her principal qualification as "a willingness to speak English to girls going abroad!" Women of sixty of eccentric appearance want posts as housekeepers to widowers and are willing to do anything. From educating the children to entertaining the guests.

It should be impressed on women looking for definite work that definite qualifications are called for. A girl who is healthy and good at games, such as golf and tennis, if she has a command of fluent French or German, will be snapped up at once, as will the girl with a degree, no matter how ungentle her manners. It is the age of proficiency in everything.

Home Gardening.
The outfit for the home growing of plants from seeds and cuttings consists of "dats," which are small wooden boxes of any convenient size, but not over three nor less than two and a half inches deep, says Harper's Bazar. A canned goods or dried fruit box saved off three inches from the bottom will make a good one. Bore six holes in the bottom for drainage. Buy as many two inch pots as you will need plants. These cost 50 cents a hundred. Also buy as many four-inch pots as you will need for plants you intend to have grow on for winter blooming. These cost 15 cents a dozen. You will need, too, a trowel, ruler or straightedge and a sheet of glass or white cloth the size of the box.

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Good form

Wedding Etiquette For Men.

It seems unnecessary to give the current attire for the groom and his attendants at a wedding, but some of the details are unfamiliar to many, so the following hints may be of use.

In the first place, so far as dress is concerned, there should be no distinction between the formal morning and the formal afternoon wedding. For either time the black frock coat is the regulation thing. The groom and his attendants should wear coats of the same style and color. A coat of dark gray is sometimes worn, but it is not a wise plan for the groom to choose one of this color unless he feels sure that the best man and ushers either already possess coats of this color that match or are willing to buy new coats which will be exactly alike.

Then, too, the coats may be worn buttoned or open, as preferred, but there must be uniformity in this respect also. In fact, all the details of dress should be as much alike as possible.

The trousers need not be of exactly the same shade or pattern, but they should all be of a striped gray cloth.

Light waistcoats of silk or mixed silk materials are usually worn, but linen and cotton fabrics in gray and cream white shades are perfectly correct. They need not all be of the same material, but they should be of the same color and the same cut. That is to say, a single or double breasted cut and a uniformity of gray or cream white in color.

Colored shirts should not be worn with dress of this style. To be sure shirts of delicate tones of gray are occasionally used, but the newest styles are those made of fine pique and linens with self stripes and figures, while, of course, the plain linen shirts with plaited or plain stiff fronts are always correct.

As for collars, one may wear the straight standing, the slightly pointed or the sharp or rounded wings.

The neckties worn are in shades of cream, white or gray and are made of silks of a fancy weave or of basket or rib weave. The Ascot shapes are those usually considered most correct, but many prefer the medium width four-in-hand.

The groom always presents the ties and gloves to his best man and ushers. The gloves should be of light gray mocha or suede kid.

The boots should be of patent leather with black kid tops.

At the evening wedding the costume is the conventional evening dress worn for every occasion.

A man who is a guest at a wedding ceremony or reception should wear the same as that worn for any other occasion of equal formality. He need not wear a light colored tie or waistcoat, and a black or dark gray morning coat would be as correct as the frock coat—not a sack coat, but the regulation formal morning coat, which, like the frock coat, is of a different material and color from the material of which the trousers are made.

The above covers in all necessary detail what may be called regulation dress for formal weddings. This may be varied, perhaps, by those who wish to have something decidedly out of the ordinary in the attire of the groom and his attendants.

Little Courtesies.

It is said almost daily that men are no longer so polite to women as they were. Life is such a hurry and rush that the civilities get pushed on one side and we are a little in danger of becoming uncouth.

It is for women to see that they do not allow such a state of things to become worse. For example, how often does a man forget that when he is walking with a lady in the street he must invariably walk on the outside of the pavement. He must take her safely across crowded thoroughfares, piloting her way, and he must never walk before her unless through a crowd where he clears the path for her.

When he meets a lady he knows he must wait for her to bow first. He raises his hat in return. If he meets a man he knows, walking with a lady with whom he himself is unacquainted, he raises his hat out of courtesy to the lady.

It is easy enough for a man to remember these small courtesies if he will only try. Nothing so stamps a man in the opinion of the world as his behavior where women are concerned.

Rules For the Guest.

Reply to all invitations immediately. In your acceptance make it plain that you understand the length of time for which you are invited and be definite as to the hour of arrival of your train or boat.

Inquire about the customs of the household and be careful to conform to them.

Even though it is impressed upon you that you may have your breakfast in your room, be sure that it entails no hardship before taking advantage of the opportunity.

Don't allow your hostess to feel that you are a burden and that she is under a constant obligation to entertain you.

Try to make yourself as helpful as possible in caring for your room unless there are many servants.

Don't permit your hostess to be extravagant in your behalf. Do your share when possible.

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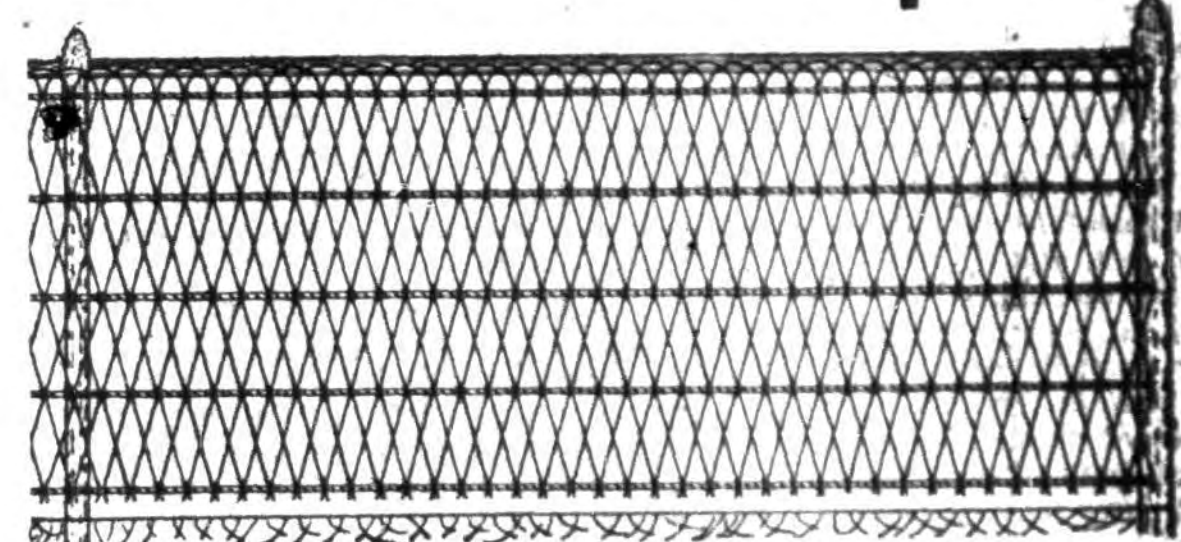
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